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UNCLAS ZAGREB 001698

SIPDIS

CENTCOM FOR CCJG/IC3 MCELROY  
JOINT STAFF FOR J5/MEIPMC/ JOHN HALL  
DEFENSE FOR OSD/DASD-EURASIA (RICARDEL)

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF CROATIAN INTENT TO DEPLOY  
TROOPS TO IRAQ

REF: ZAGREB 1364

1. ON JUNE 12, THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT PASSED A  
"DETERMINATION" TO DEPLOY AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF MILITARY  
PERSONNEL TO IRAQ TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTINATIONAL  
PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS (REFTEL). AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT  
CENTCOM REQUIRES FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTIFICATION, CROATIA'S  
FOREIGN MINISTRY FORWARDED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE REPORTING THE  
GOC ACTION. THE NOTE (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION BELOW)  
WAS DATED JULY 23 AND WAS RECEIVED AT THE EMBASSY ON JULY 29.

IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION IN THE ORIGINAL GOC  
DETERMINATION, THE NOTE SPECIFIES THAT CROATIA'S OFFER WILL  
CONSIST OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS TROOPS FOR SERVICE UNDER U.S.  
COMMAND. THE NOTE ALSO STATES THAT A FINAL DECISION TO  
DEPLOY MUST BE APPROVED BY CROATIA'S PARLIAMENT.

2. BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

(COMPLIMENTARY OPENING) THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
CROATIA, AT THE SESSION HELD ON JUNE 12, 2003, MADE A  
DETERMINATION THAT, BASED ON THE INTEREST AND READINESS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND ASSIST IN THE  
POSTWAR STABILIZATION OF IRAQ, WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1483, THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
AFFIRMS ITS READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE MEMBERS OF ITS ARMED  
FORCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION FORCES IN PEACE AND  
ORDER KEEPING OPERATIONS AIMED AT CREATING CONDITIONS FOR  
NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION, DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED DETERMINATION, THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IS PREPARED TO OFFER A  
UNIT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS TROOPS, WHICH WOULD PARTICIPATE IN  
PHASE IV OPERATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AND KEEPING THE PEACE IN  
IRAQ, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IS PREPARED, AFTER  
COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE BODIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO COME  
TO AGREEMENT ON THE MAKEUP, NUMBER AND MODALITY OF ACTIVITY  
OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL COALITION FORCES IN IRAQ.

THE FINAL DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED  
FORCES ON A MISSION IN IRAQ WILL BE TAKEN BY THE CROATIAN  
SABOR (PARLIAMENT).

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING)

END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION.  
FRANK

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